MR. L. H. JACOB: Investigation has shown that there is a lot of land which could be brought under cultivation under the existing channels but which has not yet been so converted; therefore, Government consider that, until these lands are brought under cultivation, there is no need for opening any fresh channel.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know whether, when considering the question of opening a channel, the area that it will irrigate will not be considered?

MR. L. H. JACOB: Yes, that *is* considered. In the present instance, the only question is whether the people, who have not converted so far, land which they can convert and for which they have a channel even now, will really convert other lands for which the proposed channel is intended.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: I am asking whether the area that the proposed channel will irrigate was considered by the department in deciding the question?

MR. L. H. JACOB: It was considered.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Then, may I know the total area that the proposed channel will irrigate?

MR. L. H. JACOB: I am afraid, I have not got the information; but the matter will be enquired into.

The opinion of Dr. Peter Lakshmanan about Mr. Hilkiah.

7. MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the opinion recorded by Dr. Peter Lakshmanan about Mr. Hilkiah?

MR. K. GEORGE: The question is vague, as it does not specify when and in what connection the opinion was recorded.

Statement showing rent of shops and tree-tax.

8. MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Municipal Councils*): Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the revenue realised from

(*a*) the rent of independent shops; and

(*b*) the tree-tax?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) and (*b*) The statement containing the information required is laid on the table.

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